

CLAIMS

It is claimed:

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- 1 N A method of creating a customized Internet access client user interface
- 2 comprising:
- 3 selecting a first program object from a first set of available program objects
- 4 based in part upon profile data associated with a local device;
- 5 selecting a first program resource from a first set of available program resources
- 6 based in part upon the profile data;
- 7 sending the first program object to the local device;
- 8 sending the first program resource to the local device;
- 9 sending a first rule to the local device to associate the first program object with
- 10 the first program resource to form a first program component; and
- 11 sending a second rule to the local device to assign the first program component to
- 12 a first slot associated with a template for an Internet access client user interface.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a third rule to the local device
2 defining the template and defining slots associated with the template for receiving
3 program components, said slots comprising the first slot and a second slot.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2 selecting a second program object from a second set of available program objects
3 based in part upon the profile data;

4 selecting a second program resource from a second set of available program
5 resources based in part upon the profile data;

6 sending the second program object to the local device;

7 sending the second program resource to the local device;

8 sending a fourth rule to the local device to associate the second program object
9 with the second program resource to form a second program component; and

10 sending a fifth rule to the local device to assign the second program component
11 to the second slot.

1 4 The method of claim 2, wherein sending the first and second rules to the local
2 device is performed during a first session, and sending the third rule to the local device is
3 performed during a second session, the second session occurring in time before the first
4 session.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the profile data is received from the local device
2 during the second session.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 selecting a second program object from a second set of available program objects
3 based in part upon the profile data;

4 selecting a second program resource from a second set of available program
5 resources based in part upon the profile data;

6 sending the second program object to the local device;

7 sending the second program resource to the local device;

8 sending a third rule to the local device to associate the second program object
9 with the second program resource to form a second program component; and

10 sending a fourth rule to the local device to assign the second program component
11 to a second slot associated with the template.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second rules are sent as a single
2 rule.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the profile data is received from the local device
2 during a session established with the local device.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first program resource is an executable
2 computer program programmed to cycle through available customized user interfaces.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the profile data comprises statistics regarding
2 use of a client application associated with the local device.

1 11. A method of creating a customized Internet access client user interface
2 comprising:

3 sending profile data to a server:

4 receiving a first program object from the server, said first program object having
5 been selected from a first set of available program objects based in part upon the profile
6 data;

7 receiving a first program resource from the server, said first program resource
8 having been selected from a first set of available program resources based in part upon
9 the profile data;

10 receiving a first rule from the server to associate the first program object with the
11 first program resource to form a first program component;

12 receiving a second rule from the server to assign the first program component to
13 a first slot associated with a template for an Internet access client user interface; and

14 implementing the first and second rules by associating the first program object
15 with the first program resource to form the first program component, assigning the first
16 program component to the first slot, displaying the template on a display associated with
17 the local device, and displaying the first program object on the display at a location
18 corresponding to the first slot.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising receiving a third rule from the server
2 defining the template and defining slots associated with the template for receiving
3 program components, said slots comprising the first slot and a second slot.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

2 receiving a second program object from the server, said second program object

3 having been selected from a second set of available program objects based in part upon

4 the profile data;

5 receiving a second program resource from the server, said second program

6 resource having been selected from a second set of available program resources based in

7 part upon the profile data;

8 receiving a fourth rule from the server to associate the second program object

9 with the second program resource to form a second program component;

10 receiving a fifth rule from the server to assign the second program component to

11 the second slot; and

12 implementing the third, fourth, and fifth rules by associating the second program

13 object with the second program resource to form the second program component,

14 assigning the second program component to the second slot, displaying the template on a

15 display associated with the local device, and displaying the second program object on the

16 display at a location corresponding to the second slot.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein receiving the first and second rules is
2 performed during a first session with the server, and receiving the third rule is performed
3 during a second session with the server, the second session occurring in time before the
4 first session.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the profile data is sent to the server during the
2 second session.

1 16. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 receiving a second program object from the server, said second program object
3 having been selected from a second set of available program objects based in part upon
4 the profile data;
5 receiving a second program resource from the server, said second program
6 resource having been selected from a second set of available program resources based in
7 part upon the profile data;
8 receiving a third rule from the server to associate the second program object with
9 the second program resource to form a second program component;

10 receiving a fourth rule from the server to assign the second program component
11 to a second slot associated with the template; and
12 implementing the third and fourth rules by associating the second program object
13 with the second program resource to form the second program component, assigning the
14 second program component to the second slot, and displaying the second program object
15 on the display at a location corresponding to the second slot.

1 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second rules are received as a
2 single rule.

1 18. The method of claim 11, wherein the profile data is sent to the server during a
2 session established with the server.

1 19. The method of claim 11, wherein the first program resource is an executable
2 computer program programmed to cycle through available customized user interfaces.

1 20. The method of claim 11, wherein the profile data comprises statistics regarding
2 use of a client application.

1 1. A system for creating a customized Internet access client user interface, the
2 system comprising:

3 an Internet server; and

4 computer software programmed to:

5 a) select a first program object from a first set of available program objects based
6 in part upon profile data associated with a local device;

7 b) select a first program resource from a first set of available program resources
8 based in part upon the profile data;

9 c) send the first program object to the local device;

10 d) send the first program resource to the local device;

11 e) send a first rule to the local device to associate the first program object with
12 the first program resource to form a first program component; and

13 f) send a second rule to the local device to assign the first program component to
14 a first slot associated with a template for an Internet access client user interface.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the software is further programmed to send a
2 third rule to the local device defining the template and defining slots associated with the
3 template for receiving program components, said slots comprising the first slot and a
4 second slot.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the software is further programmed to:

2 select a second program object from a second set of available program objects

3 based in part upon the profile data;

4 select a second program resource from a second set of available program

5 resources based in part upon the profile data;

6 send the second program object to the local device;

7 send the second program resource to the local device;

8 send a fourth rule to the local device to associate the second program object with

9 the second program resource to form a second program component; and

10 send a fifth rule to the local device to assign the second program component to

11 the second slot.

1 24. The system of claim 22, wherein the software is further programmed to send the
2 first and second rules to the local device during a first session, and to send the third rule
3 to the local device during a second session, the second session occurring in time before
4 the first session.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the software is further programmed to receive
2 the profile data from the local device during the second session.

1 26. The system of claim 21, wherein the software is further programmed to:

2 select a second program object from a second set of available program objects

3 based in part upon the profile data;

4 select a second program resource from a second set of available program

5 resources based in part upon the profile data;

6 send the second program object to the local device;

7 send the second program resource to the local device;

8 send a third rule to the local device to associate the second program object with

9 the second program resource to form a second program component; and

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10 send a fourth rule to the local device to assign the second program component to
11 a second slot associated with the template.

1 27. The system of claim 21, wherein the software is further programmed to send the
2 first and second rules as a single rule.

1 28. The system of claim 21, wherein the software is further programmed to receive
2 the profile data from the local device during a session established with the local device.

1 29. The system of claim 21, wherein the first program resource is an executable
2 computer program programmed to cycle through available customized user interfaces.

1 30. The system of claim 21, wherein the profile data comprises statistics regarding
2 use of a client application associated with the local device.

1 31. A system for displaying a customized Internet access client user interface, the
2 system comprising:

3 a local device having a display; and
4 computer software programmed to:

5 a) send profile data to a server;

6 b) receive a first program object from the server, said first program object having

7 been selected from a first set of available program objects based in part upon the profile

8 data;

9 c) receive a first program resource from the server, said first program resource

10 having been selected from a first set of available program resources based in part upon

11 the profile data;

12 d) receive a first rule from the server to associate the first program object with

13 the first program resource to form a first program component;

14 e) receive a second rule from the server to assign the first program component to

15 a first slot associated with a template for an Internet access client user interface; and

16 f) implement the first and second rules by associating the first program object

17 with the first program resource to form the first program component, assigning the first

18 program component to the first slot, displaying the template on the display, and

19 displaying the first program object on the display at a location corresponding to the first

20 slot.

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1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the software is further programmed to receive a
2 third rule from the server defining the template and defining slots associated with the
3 template for receiving program components, said slots comprising the first slot and a
4 second slot.

1 33. The system of claim 32, wherein the software is further programmed to:
2 receive a second program object from the server, said second program object
3 having been selected from a second set of available program objects based in part upon
4 the profile data;
5 receive a second program resource from the server, said second program resource
6 having been selected from a second set of available program resources based in part
7 upon the profile data;
8 receive a fourth rule from the server to associate the second program object with
9 the second program resource to form a second program component;
10 receive a fifth rule from the server to assign the second program component to
11 the second slot; and

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12 implement the third, fourth, and fifth rules by associating the second program
13 object with the second program resource to form the second program component,
14 assigning the second program component to the second slot, displaying the template on
15 the display, and displaying the second program object on the display at a location
16 corresponding to the second slot.

1 34. The system of claim 32, wherein the software is further programmed to receive
2 the first and second rules during a first session with the server, and to receive the third
3 rule during a second session with the server, wherein the second session occurs in time
4 before the first session.

1 35. The system of claim 34, wherein the software is further programmed to send the
2 profile data to the server during the second session.

1 36. The system of claim 31, wherein the software is further programmed to:

2 receive a second program object from the server, said second program object

3 having been selected from a second set of available program objects based in part upon

4 the profile data;

5 receive a second program resource from the server, said second program resource
6 having been selected from a second set of available program resources based in part
7 upon the profile data;

8 receive a third rule from the server to associate the second program object with
9 the second program resource to form a second program component;

10 receive a fourth rule from the server to assign the second program component to
11 a second slot associated with the template; and

12 implement the third and fourth rules by associating the second program object
13 with the second program resource to form the second program component, assigning the
14 second program component to the second slot, and displaying the second program object
15 on the display at a location corresponding to the second slot.

1 37. The system of claim 31, wherein the software is further programmed to receive
2 the first and second rules as a single rule.

1 38. The system of claim 31, wherein the software is further programmed to send the
2 profile data to the server during a session established with the server.

1 39. The system of claim 31, wherein the first program resource is an executable
2 computer program programmed to cycle through available customized user interfaces.

1 40. The system of claim 31, wherein the profile data comprises statistics regarding
2 use of a client application associated with the local device.

1 41. A method of creating a customized Internet access client user interface
2 comprising:

3 selecting a first program object from a first set of available program objects
4 based in part upon a brand name indicator associated with a local device;
5 selecting a first program resource from a first set of available program resources
6 based in part upon the brand name indicator;

7 sending the first program object to the local device;
8 sending the first program resource to the local device;
9 sending a first rule to the local device to associate the first program object with
10 the first program resource to form a first program component;

11 sending a second rule to the local device to assign the first program component to
12 a first slot associated with a template for an Internet access client user interface; and
13 sending a third rule to the local device defining the template and defining slots
14 associated with the template for receiving program components, said slots comprising
15 the first slot and a second slot.

1 42. The method of claim 41, wherein the steps of selecting the first program object
2 and the first program resource are further based in part upon profile data associated with
3 the local device.

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